

**REMARKS**

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants have responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

**Section 112 Rejection**

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. The claims are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

**Section 103(a) Rejection**

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-6 and 8-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,732,078 issued to Arango ("*Arango*") and U.S. Patent No. 5,951,649 issued to Dobbins et al. ("*Dobbins*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of *Arango* and *Dobbins* proposed by the Examiner fails to disclose, teach, or suggest elements specifically recited in Applicants' claims. For example, the *Arango-Dobbins* combination proposed by the Examiner fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the following recited in independent Claim 1, as amended:

- recording accounting information in the entry, the accounting information comprising a first time stamp of the first one message;
- updating the accounting information, the updated accounting information comprising a second time stamp of the second one message;
- determining that the message flow has expired if a difference between the first time stamp and the second time stamp is greater than a timeout; and
- routing said second one message responsive to said first routing treatment if the difference is less than the timeout.

For at least these reasons, independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103. For analogous reasons, independent Claim 14 and its respective dependent claims are allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Keiko Ichiye, the Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6494.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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